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Lunesdale Rural District Council



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[Signature]

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1963

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Councillor S. SHUTTLEWORTH, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor W. W. Pickles

Public Health Committee:

Chairman:

Councillor S. HAYES

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Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.Sc. (Agr.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor:

A. WARBURTON

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1963

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lunesdale Rural District Council:*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present, for your consideration, my Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Lunesdale Rural District in respect of the year 1963.

The estimated population at mid-year, 1963, was 8,850, an increase of 250 on the previous year.

There were 166 live births, equivalent to an adjusted birth-rate of 18.8 per 1,000 population, the comparable rate for England and Wales being 18.2 per 1,000.

Deaths from all causes totalled 111, an increase of 8 over the previous year. The adjusted death rate was 11.8 per 1,000 population which may be compared with the national rate of 12.2 and the county rate of 13.8 per 1,000.

Two infant deaths occurred during 1963, the resultant infant mortality rate being 12.0 per 1,000 live births, compared with the figure of 20.9 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Apart from a fairly large outbreak of measles in the first half of the year, the incidence of infectious diseases continued at a low level. Immunisation and vaccination programmes now afford considerable protection to young children.

The routine inspection and supervision of water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal systems, refuse disposal, housing, food hygiene, etc., are still vitally important to the maintenance of a healthy environment. During the year further progress was made in the preparation of plans to modernise or extend sewage treatment plants in the villages of Halton and Wray.

Improvement schemes qualifying for substantial grants were completed in respect of 15 houses in comparison to 45 in the previous year. One hundred and six new houses were erected by private builders, mostly in Caton and Halton.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

AREA of the District (Acres)	...	...	...	...	76,267
POPULATION (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	7,351
(Census 1961)	...	...	...	...	8,224
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid-1963)...					8,850
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES					
According to Rate Book (1951)	...	...			2,091
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES					
According to Rate Book (1963)	...	...			2,983
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE (1963)					3.0
NUMBER OF HOUSES PER ACRE (1963)	...	...			0.04
NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ACRE (1963)				...	0.18
RATEABLE VALUE (at 1st April, 1964)	...				£306,882
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE				...	£1,270

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS.

The social conditions of the District are reasonably satisfactory and the chief occupations of the inhabitants are :—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles.

Lime Stone Quarrying.

Brick manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1963

<i>Live Births</i>						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate...	...	...	...	...	...	90	74	164
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
						91	75	166
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population						...	...	18.8
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 population						...	...	18.8
Proportion (per cent) of illegitimate live births to total live births						...	...	1.2
					
<i>Still Births</i>								
Number registered	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	5
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births								29.2
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS						96	75	171
<i>Infant Deaths</i>								
Total infant deaths (under 1 year)						1	1	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births								12.0
Total infant deaths (under 4 weeks)						1	1	2
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						...	...	12.0
Total infant deaths (under 1 week)						1	1	2
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						...	...	12.0
STILL BIRTHS & DEATHS UNDER 1 Wk.						5	0	5
Peri-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						...	...	40.9
DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES						...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						..	...	Nil
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES						59	52	111
Crude death rate per 1,000 population								12.5
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 popn.								11.8
<i>Deaths from Certain Specified Diseases</i>						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population	
Cancer (all forms)						21		2.37
Respiratory Tuberculosis						0		0

**TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1963.**

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	6	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	12	20
Coronary disease, angina	13	12	25
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
Other heart disease	2	5	7
Other circulatory disease	5	2	7
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea... ..	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6	4	10
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of war... ..	—	—	—
TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES ...	59	52	111

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1963 AND THE PERIOD 1958—1962

YEAR	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1963	166	18.8*	111	12.5*	5	29.2	Nil.	Nil.	2	12.0	2	12.0
1962	158	18.4	103	12.0	2	12.5	Nil.	Nil.	2	12.7	1	6.3
1961	142	17.1	96	11.6	3	20.7	Nil.	Nil.	1	7.0	1	7.0
1960	132	16.6	86	10.8	2	22.2	Nil.	Nil.	2	15.2	2	15.2
1959	121	15.8	114	14.9	3	24.2	Nil.	Nil.	4	33.1	3	24.8
1958	121	16.3	87	11.7	1	8.2	Nil.	Nil.	4	33.1	4	33.1
AVERAGE 5 yrs 1958-1962	—	16.8	—	12.2	—	17.5	Nil.	Nil.	—	20.2	—	17.2

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 18.8 per 1,000
death-rate (comparability factor, 0.94) = 11.8 per 1,000

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service

Lancaster Ambulance Station. Telephone Lancaster 3311.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

No 12 Area Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.
Area Children's Officer : Miss F. M. JAY, B.A., 43 West Road,
Lancaster. Telephone 3020.

Clinics.

1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

- (a) Hornby, Village Institute, alternate Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (b) Caton Institute, alternate Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (c) Halton, Congregational Church Hall, alternate Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m. (alternating with Caton).
- (d) Carnforth, Market Street, Every Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.

2. DENTAL.

- (a) Market Street, Carnforth : Every Thursday, by arrangement.
- (b) Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : Daily, by arrangement.

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

- (a) Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis can be provided free of charge at Child Welfare Centres within the district. Appointments arranged as required.
- (b) The same services can also be provided free by the General Medical Practitioners in the area.

4. OPHTHALMIC.

Market Street, Carnforth : Alternate Wednesday mornings.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC.

Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : By arrangement.

6. MINOR AILMENTS

Market Street, Carnforth : Friday mornings, 9-30—11-30 a.m.

7. SPEECH THERAPY

Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : Mondays, by appointment.

Convalescence

Arrangements can be made through the Divisional Health Office, Station Road, Lancaster, for the admission of children and adults to convalescent or recuperative homes. This service is not normally free of charge.

Health Visiting Service

Full time nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire County Council to carry out duties as health visitors and school nurses.

Home Help Service

Home Helps, resident within the Lunesdale District are available to provide help in the home for persons who are incapacitated by illness, old age and infirmity, confinement, etc. Those who can afford to pay for this service are required to do so according to their means.

Home Nursing and Midwifery

Full time nurse/midwives, who combine the duties of district nursing and domiciliary midwifery, are available within the District.

Laboratory Service

Samples of water, milk and specimens in connection with infectious diseases are dealt with at the Public Health Laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary. Transport of samples to Preston is carried out by agreement with the Public Health Department, Lancaster City Corporation.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst at County Hall, Preston.

Mental Health Service

Medical Officers on the Divisional Health staff are responsible for recommending children found to be unsuitable for education at school for suitable training and a Junior Training Centre for such children is available in Lancaster. Mental Welfare Officers are responsible for the supervision of the mentally subnormal living in the community. The treatment and admission to hospital of the mentally

ill is mainly arranged informally and the Mental Welfare Officers are now more concerned with the social needs and after-care of discharged patients in co-operation with general practitioners and consultant psychiatrists.

Welfare Services

The following Welfare Services are provided by the Lancashire County Council and are administered by Divisional Health Committee No. 2.

(1) RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

For elderly persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them, permanent accommodation is provided in the following Homes for the Aged: Dolphinlee, Fair Elms and The Laurels at Lancaster; the Empress at Morecambe; Moor Platt and the Hermitage at Caton. Short term care for two weeks is also available in certain circumstances.

(2) CARE OF AGED PERSONS IN THEIR OWN HOMES

The domiciliary services provided by the County Council have been expanded, where necessary, so as to provide adequate home nursing, help in the home and general support in conjunction with local voluntary organisations, to enable old people to continue to live in their own homes. A laundry service and a free chiropody service are also available.

(3) HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Registers are maintained for the blind and the deaf for whom certain welfare services are made available through the agency of voluntary organisations. Other classes of handicapped persons, including cripples, epileptics and spastics are provided with occupational therapy, chiropody, transport to social centres, holidays, etc.

(4) HOMES FOR DISABLED AND/OR OLD PERSONS

There are 6 homes of this nature in the division, all managed by voluntary bodies or private individuals. These homes are registered and inspected regularly by the Divisional Medical Staff.

SECTION C

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1963.

Diseases	Total Cases	Age Period — Years											
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age Un-known
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	169	5	12	17	27	21	81	4	1	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Inf.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Other	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total Cases..	176	5	13	17	27	21	83	4	3	2	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS—1963

Age Groups.	Notifications.				Deaths.	
	New Cases.		Inward Transfer.			
	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and Over	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	1	1	—	—	—

TOTAL INCIDENCE

Notification of infectious disease in 1963 totalled 176 as against 34 in 1962.

SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA

One case of scarlet fever was notified compared with three in the previous year.

The last case of diphtheria notified in the district was in 1947. Memories of this once virulent and often fatal disease are fading, and it remains difficult to maintain an adequate level of immunity in the population because far too many young parents fail to ensure that their children receive protection by means of active immunisation.

Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor, through school clinics, or at child welfare centres. Under the present immunisation scheme, facilities are provided for protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, whereby inoculations may be given against diphtheria or whooping cough separately or together, or in further combination with protection against tetanus.

The following table shows the number of Lunesdale children immunised during 1959-1963 against each of these three diseases.

IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT 1959 - 1963

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation									
	Diphtheria			Whooping Cough			Tetanus		
Age Groups	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total
1963	159	10	169	159	—	159	159	12	171
1962	142	8	150	141	1	142	142	8	150
1961	136	15	151	133	1	134	136	14	150
1960	141	10	151	136	8	144	136	9	145
1959	116	7	123	115	7	122	104	6	120
Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection									
Age Groups	Diphtheria All ages		Whooping Cough All ages		Tetanus All ages				
1963	222		52		161				
1962	208		32		110				
1961	205		14		83				
1960	162		10		24				
1959	155		18		10				

POLIOMYELITIS

No notifications of poliomyelitis were received during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Two new cases of tuberculosis were notified but no deaths were recorded. Mortality from all forms of tuberculosis continues to decline throughout the country as a whole, particularly within the last decade.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Notification of measles increased from 21 cases in 1962 to 169 in 1963. There was only one case of whooping cough compared with four in the previous year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY

The Lune Valley Water Board has been the responsible authority for the supply of water throughout the district since its formation in 1961 and approximately 80% of the houses in the area are provided with a piped supply from public mains.

Private supplies for the more outlying properties, such as farms, are mostly piped into the houses and farm buildings, and, as is to be expected, in exceptionally dry seasons, some of these supplies cease and difficulties arise in a sufficiency of supply for domestic and farm purposes. Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries regularly obtain samples of those private sources from premises where milk is produced and the approval of the Council is sought where such supplies are found to be suitable on bacteriological examination.

The principal source of supply in the district is obtained from the Thirlmere Aqueduct of the Manchester Corporation which passes through several parishes and two local sources are also used to serve properties in the parishes of Wray, Hornby, Claughton and Caton.

The supply to the villages of Wray, Hornby and Claughton is from a river intake and the water is passed through sand filters, chlorinated and then de-chlorinated before passing into the mains, whilst the Caton supply is passed through a gravel filter and chlorinated before use.

A small proportion of houses in the Quernmore valley use untreated water from one of the Board's Reservoirs and treated water is also obtained from the mains serving Lancaster to a few properties on the border of the City.

No new schemes were put into operation in the district during the year but a new supply for the parish of Caton was being planned and it is hoped to provide a more suitable supply for the villages on this scheme in the near future.

Mains extensions to serve new properties were carried out and 106 new houses which have become occupied were connected to the mains.

In the following table, an estimate is given of the supplies to properties in various parishes and the population served at the end of the year.

Parish	From Public Mains		Private Supplies	
	No. of Houses	Population Served	No. of Houses.	Population Served
Arkholme-with-Cawood ...	74	185	17	60
Borwick	49	133	4	12
Burrow-with-Burrow ...	44	125	7	17
Cantsfield	21	74	1	5
Caton-with-Littledale ...	755	2,150	41	126
Claughton	37	106	2	6
Gressingham	47	125	1	4
Halton-with-Aughton ...	609	1,840	4	14
Hornby-with-Farleton ...	173	480	3	11
Ireby	18	56	4	15
Nether Kellet	112	342	3	8
Over Kellet	173	542	14	40
Leck	55	168	5	17
Melling-with-Wrayton ...	68	210	—	—
Quernmore	95	308	88	282
Roeburndale	—	—	21	80
Tatham	57	188	59	204
Tunstall	28	70	5	15
Wennington	42	138	1	4
Whittington	83	240	19	56
Wray-with-Botton	124	370	22	90
Total Whole District ...	2,664	7,870	321	1,066

NEW CONNECTIONS

Six houses, previously served by private supplies, were connected to the mains during the year.

EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Bacteriological

Samples of water from various sources are obtained from time to time for bacteriological examination. These specimens are dealt with at the Public Health Laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary and transport of specimens is carried out by arrangement with the Health Department of the Lancaster City Corporation.

(1) *Raw Water*: Private Supplies :—

No. of specimens submitted ...	...	6
No. found to be satisfactory ...	...	4
No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	2

(2) *Treated Water*: Public Supplies :—

No. of specimens submitted ...	...	28
No. found to be satisfactory ...	...	27
No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	1

In addition to the above, reports were received from the Public Health Laboratory regarding ~~48~~⁴⁴ samples of water obtained in the district by the Water Board for bacteriological examination. Details are summarised below :—

No. of specimens submitted ...	...	44
No. found to be satisfactory ...	...	38
No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	6

Owners of private supplies are notified of the results of the examinations and advice is given, where necessary, of the possible sources of contamination and action thought to be necessary to clear up the pollution.

(b) Chemical Analysis

No specimens were submitted during the year to the County Analyst at Preston who undertakes these examinations on the Council's behalf.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

As mentioned in previous reports, new sewage treatment works are in operation in Nether Kellet, Over Kellet, Hornby, Caton and Halton.

Owing to new development in the Caton and Halton parishes, the two schemes are now becoming overloaded and steps will have to be taken, in the near future, to enlarge these two works.

A scheme is already envisaged for Halton which will require the construction of a complete new works, which, when in operation, will cope with sewage from the older houses in Halton and the War Department's Bridging Camp near Carus Park. Discussions regarding the planning and financing of this scheme are taking place and it is

hoped that work will commence towards the end of 1964 or early 1965. This will entail the laying of a new length of foul sewer at the western end of the village, the existing sewer will then be used for surface water only.

With regard to the village of Wray, plans for a new works and a certain amount of new sewers have been finalised and forwarded to the Ministry and the County Council, and a decision as to the availability of grants for this contract is now awaited. The completion of this scheme will allow for the abolition of the obsolete and overloaded tanks now in use in the village.

Improvements have been made to several small sewage plants serving Council housing estates on the recommendation of Officers of the Lancashire River Board to make these plants more efficient.

Private owners are still constructing new septic tanks to properties where improvements are carried out and no sewers are available. A scheme for the emptying of private septic tanks is to be brought into operation, and owners requiring this service are to be asked to contribute a small fee towards this work as additional labour and transport will have to be provided.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

An estimate is given below of the type of sanitary accommodation available at properties in the district at the end of the year :—

Number of Pail Closets	50
Number of Privy Middens	220
Number of Closets attached	300
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System...	2535
Number of Fresh Water Closets	3046
Number of Moveable Ashbins	3450

Conversions during 1963:

Number of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets...	20
Number of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets ...	6
Number of Fixed Receptacles to Moveable Ashbins	15

The alteration of the old-type convenience depends principally on the provision of sewers in the villages, but in isolated houses the Standard Improvment Grant enables owners to convert privies to water closets and it is hoped that progress will continue with these schemes.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A refuse collection service is provided in all parts of the district and properties are visited at intervals of approximately 10 days, with the exception of outlying farm premises which are visited periodically, chiefly on request.

Eight workmen, one of whom acts as General Foreman, are engaged on this work and the foreman is also employed as the Council's Rodent Operator and transfers to refuse collection during holiday periods or when other employees are on sick leave. Three vehicles are in use on the work, two of 12 cubic yards capacity and one of 18 cubic yards and this latter works in the more urbanised part of the district where most of the new houses are being erected. Owing to this development, it is becoming obvious that additional labour will soon be necessary to keep a regular collection service going.

Work carried out during the year included the emptying of 117,807 dustbins and 331 privy middens and pails, the vehicle mileage for the three waggon totalled 21,449.

There are two tips in use for the disposal of refuse, one near Over Kellet and one near Whittington, and efforts are being made to find another site, more in the eastern part of the district which will be suitable for use, and perhaps enable vehicle mileage to be cut.

Waste-paper, rags and metals are still collected for salvage, and a bonus is paid to the workmen on the sale of these materials.

HOUSING

New housing development is taking place in various parishes but it is principally in the Caton and Halton areas where estate building is being carried out by private enterprise. 106 new houses were completed during the year, all being built privately.

A survey of the applications for Council houses made during the year revealed that there were 71 live applications, 32 being in respect of old people's bungalows.

The number of occupied houses at the end of the year is given as 2,983, and the general standard of the properties in the district is reasonably good. Older houses, or properties built before 1914, are usually constructed of stone with slated roofs, but properties erected after that date are generally of brick construction with slated or tiled roofs, the external walls being rough cast or similarly treated. As is to

be expected, the older-type properties show varying signs of dampness owing to the lack of damp-proof courses but owner/occupiers of these houses tend to use one of the many preparations now on the market to help eliminate dampness.

The provisions of the Improvement Grant schemes are reasonably well known in the district and owners are advised as to the possibilities of obtaining a grant when work is contemplated. Numerous enquiries have been received during the year and the consequent demand on officers' time is felt to be worth while. Applications have come chiefly from owner/occupiers many taking the opportunity of having the work done during a change of ownership and before houses are re-occupied.

No alteration has been made to the procedure regarding "Discretionary Grants" during the year, the Council making a maximum grant of 40% of the estimated cost on approved work for existing houses and a further 25% is added on the next £400 when an additional unit of accommodation is being provided. Efforts are made to look into proposals with owners or representatives before schemes are submitted to the Council's Public Health Committee and so avoid delays in dealing with applications.

Of the 38 applications received during the year, approval was given to 4 Discretionary and 34 Standard Grants. Work was completed on 2 Discretionary schemes, one of which provided an additional separate dwelling and 13 Standard Grant schemes and there is no doubt that the modernisation of these older houses is a worthwhile task which should be encouraged as much as possible.

One unfit house was demolished and one closed during the year, the tenants of both these properties were rehoused in Council houses.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES

Number of premises inspected during the year...	110
Number of visits made for the purpose... ..	182
Number of premises found not in all respects fit..	36
Number of premises rendered fit by informal action	28
Number of houses demolished	1

SHOPS' ACT

Nearly all the shops in the district are small domestic businesses, the majority of the employees being members of the proprietor's family. Periodic visits are made to these premises and no action has been deemed necessary during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the area, all meat being purchased wholesale by the local butchers from either Lancaster, Morecambe or Kirkby Lonsdale, the quality being of a good standard.

Food preparing premises are regularly visited and the standard of cleanliness is relatively high as these premises, similar to shops, are small domestic businesses and foodstuffs handled with greater care than in large premises.

The provision and maintenance of refrigeration cabinets in these premises continues as a result of the ever-increasing demand for pre-package frozen foodstuffs and no complaints have been received regarding the quality of this type of food.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Almost all the milk produced in the district is removed to dairies outside the area for processing. It is possible to purchase pasteurised milk in certain parts of the district but untreated milk sold locally is from T.T. herds. Pasteurising takes place outside the district and all dirty bottles are returned to these dairies for sterilising and cleansing.

School milk is either pasteurised or from T.T. herds and is regularly sampled by members of the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

SCHOOLS

Improvements and additions were made to the C. of E. School at Brookhouse during the year, new classrooms were added and new toilet facilities provided. Other minor improvements were carried out to various schools in the district but at two schools, more modern toilet facilities are still to be provided.

RODENT CONTROL

The foreman of the refuse collection service is employed part-time on this work which includes the inspection of agricultural and business premises, private dwellings, Council refuse tips and sewage disposal works. Wherever possible contracts are entered into in respect of farm and business premises but private houses are given a free service as and when required.

Sewerage systems are baited and poisoned at least twice each year in accordance with Ministry policy and refuse tips and sewage works sites are kept under strict observation and treated when necessary. Details of the work carried out are given below.

TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Non-Agricultural		Agri-cultural
	Dwelling Houses	All Other	
No. of properties in district	2626	65	442
No. of properties inspected	142	22	46
Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)	360	48	598
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—			
Rats : major	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor	Nil	10	52
Mice : major	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor	4	Nil	5
No. of infested properties treated ...	68	21	46
Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	235	36	552
No. of “Block” control schemes carried out	3	4	5

Sewer Treatment

Total number of manholes baited	93
Number of manholes showing prebait take	20
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take (one or both days)	4
Number of manholes showing complete poison take	—
Number of manholes showing part poison take	6

FACTORIES ACTS

The 45 premises affected by this legislation were visited on 40 occasions during the year. Complaints regarding sanitary conveniences referred by H.M. Inspector in the area numbered 3, all of these being in regard to sanitary accommodation. These complaints were discussed with the owners of the premises concerned and work was put in hand and completed by the year end.

